

# This Day in History

(May 9)

Today is Sunday; 19<sup>th</sup> of the Iranian month of Ordibehesht 1400 solar hijri; corresponding to 26<sup>th</sup> of the Islamic month of Ramadhan 1442 lunar hijri; and May 9, 2021, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

**571 solar years ago**, on this day in 1450 AD, Abdul-Latif "Pidarkush", the Timurid ruler of Central Asia and Khorasan, was assassinated after a reign of 6 months. The reason he is called "Pidarkush" by the people of Central Asia, was because of his killing of his own father, the famous scientist-king, Ulugh Beg – the son of Shahrukh Mirza and grandson of Amir Timur.

**368 solar years ago**, on this day in 1653 AD, the construction of Taj Mahal, which is one of the most beautiful buildings in the world and among the best examples of Islamic architecture in India, ended after twenty-two years. Shah Jahan, the 5<sup>th</sup> Great Moghul Emperor of the Timurid Dynasty of the northern part of the Subcontinent (present day northern India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and the eastern part of Afghanistan) built it in memory of his wife of Iranian origin, Arjmand Banu Begum, who died while giving birth to her fourteenth child. This beautiful mausoleum in the city of Agra on the banks of the River Jamuna, is made of white marble, with ayahs of the holy Qur'an inscribed on its façade and interior. It incorporates and expands on design traditions of Persian architecture and earlier Mughal architecture. The best architects of the Mughal Empire along with those of Iran, like Eisa Isfahani, were employed to construct it. Today it is regarded as one of the Seven Wonders of the World.

**317 lunar years ago**, on this day in 1125 AH, prominent Iranian Islamic scholar, Jamal od-Din Mohammad Khwansari, passed away in his hometown Isfahan. Born in a religious and academic family, his equally learned father was Aqa Hussain Muhaqqiq of the famous Khwansari family which traced its lineage to Imam Musa Kazem (AS), the 7<sup>th</sup> Infallible Heir of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA). He has written an annotation on the philosophical masterpiece "ash-Shefa" of the Iranian Islamic genius Abu Ali ibn Sina His most popular book, however, is "Kulthum-Nana" or "Aqa'ed an-Nisa", which is a humorous book that criticizes laypeople's approach to religiosity or piety and in particular women's ill-founded religious beliefs in the Safavid period.

**216 solar years ago**, on this day in 1805 AD, the German author, poet, and playwright, Friedrich Von Schiller, died at the age of 45. His first play was "The Robbers", in which he exposed official oppression. He was subsequently banned from writing but continued to write in secrecy.

**110 solar years ago**, on this day in 1911 AD, an American delegation led by Morgan Schuster, arrived in Iran on the invitation of the Qajarid government to serve as an advisory team for reforming of economic and financial affairs.

**105 solar years ago**, on this day in 1916 AD, the scandalous Sykes-Picot Accord was signed by representatives of Britain, France, and Russia in Paris for dividing up the Arab lands of the Ottoman Empire and limiting the Turkish possessions to Anatolia or present day Turkey. Even before the formal defeat of the Ottomans in 1917, lines were drawn on paper to share the spoils by the two principal European colonial powers. The British took control of Iraq and the Hijaz. Shaam or Greater Syria was split up into four parts, with the British taking Jordan and Palestine, and the French taking Syria and Lebanon. The main goal of this plan was to set up in Palestine, an illegal entity called Israel as a homeland for European Jews.

**94 solar years ago**, on this day in 1927 AD, Iran issued an announcement on supposed revocation of capitulation. Two years after collapse of the Qajarid dynasty and assumption of power by the British agent, Reza Khan Pahlavi, treaties and agreements concluded by the Qajar kings granting concessions to foreign countries, especially Russia, were selectively revoked. Reza Khan's purpose in his so-called revocation of capitulation was a dishonest measure to depict an anti-colonial face of himself in Iran with the help of the British-backed mass media, as is evident by the Foreign Ministry's sending letters to embassies of European countries in Tehran such as Britain, Germany, France, etc., reiterating their special rights and political, economic and judicial privileges in Iran. For example, on 10 May 1928 on which concession treaties were supposedly annulled by the Majlis, the Foreign Ministry sent a letter to British Minister Plenipotentiary in Iran, Robert Henry Clive, assuring him of immunity of British nationals as before. Similar letters were sent to the US ambassador and German Minister Plenipotentiary in the following days. Capitulation was enforced as a law subsequent to the Russo-Iran Wars of the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It was first imposed on Iran by Tsarist Russia through the humiliating Turkmenchay and Golestan Treaties. Thereafter, Britain and other European powers compelled Iran to grant them special rights and privileges. Although in 1921, a day prior to the coup in Iran against Ahmad Shah Qajar, the Soviet Union had unilaterally cancelled the Tsarist colonial institution of capitulation treaties, including the 99-year treaty with Iran, Reza Khan's decree on its supposed revocation in 1927 was actually issued six years after end of the capitulation treaty period. It was thus a superficial measure to fool the Iranian people, since Reza Khan was strongly loathed due to his anti-Islamic policies like banning of religious preaching and prohibition of teaching of the holy Qur'an and religious courses in the schools. In 1963, his son Mohammad Reza Pahlavi entered into a more humiliating capitulation treaty with the US by granting American citizens all immunity against crimes they commit in Iran. This was approved by the cabinet ministers in October 1963, by the Senate in August 1964, and by the rubber-stamp Majlis on 13 October 1964. This was strongly denounced on 26 October the same year by the Father of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeini (God bless him) and led to his exile from Iran. Following triumph of the Islamic Revolution, Iran cancelled forever all capitulation rights to foreigners on May 13, 1979.

**33 solar years ago**, on this day in 1988 AD, fifty days after Saddam's savage chemical bombardment of the Iraqi Kurdish town of Halabcheh to prevent its inhabitants from welcoming Iranian Muslim combatants as liberators from the repressive rule of the Ba'ath minority regime, the United Nations Security Council approved a vaguely-worded Resolution 612. Although the resolution condemned the use of the internationally-banned chemical weapons as against the Geneva Protocol, it neither named Saddam as aggressor nor user of chemical weapons by merely calling on the two sides to refrain from violation of the Geneva Protocol, despite the fact that there was no evidence of Iran breaking the law.

**29 solar years ago**, on this day in 1992 AD, Armenia invaded the Caucasus Republic of Azerbaijan and occupied Qarabagh region, where a sizeable part of the population was Armenian Christians.

**15 solar years ago**, on this day in 2006 AD, Bosnia's war crimes court launched the trial of 11 Bosnian Serbs charged over the 1995 Srebrenica massacre of 8,000 Bosnian Muslims, its first genocide trial since it opened the year.

**11 solar years ago**, on this day in 2010 AD, the Islamic Republic of Iran opened the biggest car plant of the West Asia-North Africa region, set up by "SAIPA" the Iranian automobile company.

**8 solar years ago**, on this day in 2013 AD, Iran built a new, radar-evading drone that can do surveillance and fire on enemy targets. The new aircraft, dubbed "Hemaseh" or Epic, can fly at high altitudes.

**Ordibehesht 19** is commemorated every year in the Islamic Republic of Iran as National Day for the great theologian and Hadith scholar, Sheikh Abu Ja'far, Mohammad bin Ya'qub Kulayni ar-Razi. He was among the greatest hadith scholars and the author of "al-Kafi", one of the most authentic Four Books of Hadith of the School of the Ahl al-Bayt of Prophet Mohammad (blessings of God upon him and his progeny).

# Iranian Film Hits Hollywood Silver Screen

TEHRAN (MNA) – Iranian short film 'Seven Years Minus 10 Days' by Hamid Nouri won second place for the Best Film at the Hollywood Silver Screen Festival in the U.S.

Produced and Directed by Hamid Nouri, 'Seven Years Minus 10 Days', has gained second place at the Hollywood Silver Screen Festival 2021.

Out of 614 films from 86 countries, the Iranian short film was selected to compete with 13 short films in the festival and finally won second place for the best film from the judges of the Hollywood Silver Screen Festival.

The synopsis of the short film read, "Leila's husband has banned



her from visiting her 7-year-old son due to divorce and immigration. Leila, who manages to see her son after a long time, found

that her son has some problems at school."

Hollywood Silver Screen Festival is an IMDb-qualified annual

festival with live film screenings, guest and speaker panels, small group breakout sessions, and networking parties in Los Angeles, CA. The award ceremony features art, fashion, a beauty pageant, music, and dance showcases.

In 2021, Hollywood Silver Screen Festival host a special Program to bring public awareness to parental alienation. Parental alienation is what happens when a parent (or someone) maliciously brainwashes, influences and/or manipulates a child against the other parent, often in a bitter separation or divorce, in an effort to destroy the sacred parent-child relationship.

## 'The Dragon's Treasure' on Way to French Animation Festival



TEHRAN (IFILM) – Iranian animated film 'The Dragon's Treasure' has made its way to the market of Ancecy International Animation Film Festival, Mifa, in France.

'The Dragon's Treasure' is included in the lineup for the Mifa Pitches 2021 program, which aims "to showcase the best original animation film projects in development", the event's website reads.

'The Dragon's Treasure' is directed by Ashkan Rahgozar.

"An eight-year-old girl named Sayeh goes on an adventure in search of the dragon's treasure to save her grandmother's

village from drought. But she doesn't know that the real treasure is water and she must fill up all the aqueducts," a synopsis for the film reads.

Co-written by Rahgozar and Aida Noshali, the 2D animation is currently at the pre-production stage, which kicked off last year and will last six more months.

The film is expected to be ready for screening in 2023.

The 2021 edition of Ancecy International Animation Film Festival will take place online on June 14-19, and the International Animation Film Market (Mifa) will be held on June 15-18.

## Swedish Exhibition Showcases Works of Iranian Artist

TEHRAN (Honaronline) – Paintings by Iranian artist Sadegh Amirrahmani is on view in the exhibition "Variation" at Atchom Gallery, Sweden.

The gallery wrote in a statement for the exhibit "Before anything, Sadegh Amirrahmani's works represent forms and colors that engage us. There is no unified topic and the lived experiences of the artist are directly presented to us in the form of watercolor painting".

In this regard, Sadegh Amirrahmani has said, "if I want to paint something, I paint it right in the middle of the canvas or paper. I don't understand why the composition should be determined based on a set of principles. I'm not deeming those teachings wrong, but they come from another state of mind. Perhaps I'll experience them someday. I have always had color in my work, but I never use color as the mood of my work. There are times that the work looks beautiful, but it isn't finished. These are the times that you should stop controlling the work and allow it to continue on its way".



Painting by Iranian artist Sadegh Amirrahmani on view in the exhibition "Variation" at Atchom Gallery, Sweden.

He preserves his relation with the work until the end and does not attempt to control or embellish it. Therefore, his works have a tangible reality that even takes the audience to the moment they were created. Sadegh Amirrahmani Born in 1989 in Tehran. He lives in Sweden.

The exhibition will run until May 14.

## World Portuguese Language Day

On the occasion of the World Portuguese Language Day the Ambassadors of Portugal and Brazil send the following message:

Brazil, Portugal, Portugal, Brazil. We both speak a global language, Portuguese. In its unity, plural, diverse, rich. The most spoken language in the South Hemisphere. Shared with other seven countries in all continents. With a special presence in Africa (Angola, Cape Verde, Guiné-Bissau,



The Brazilian Ambassador H.E. Mr. Laudemar Aguiar Neto and the Portuguese Ambassadors H.E. Mr. Carlos Costa Neves with Publisher Mr. Sadegh Samiei and his Spouse Ms. Shirin Samiei

Equatorial Guinea, Mozambique and São Tomé and Príncipe), but also in Timor-Leste and in other places, like Macau or Goa. On May 5th we commemorate the World Portuguese Language Day. Of the nine States that speak it, two boast an Embassy in this captivating country, to which we are bound by ancient ties of friendship that we value and seek to enhance. Which is why we want to mark this date with a symbolic gesture. Each of us will donate book of celebrated authors of our countries to Iranian schools and universities, in their beautiful translations into Farsi – a language of fertile and acclaimed literary and poetic tradition, like ours. This is a day for sharing. And it is also pertinent to recall that both countries have Cultural Institutes which provide online courses of Portuguese. In the case of Brazil, its Cultural Centres, which in the future will be called "Instituto Guimarães Rosa", and for Portugal, "Instituto Camões I.P." Also in Portugal and Brazil, the number of students learning the Persian language is growing. May we know each other better and better, and may the mutual learning of our languages draw us nearer. That is our wish.

## Picture of the Day



In a cultural project of the Embassy of Poland and University of Tehran, Iranian students designed furniture combining traditional motives drawn from cultures and arts of Poland and Iran. Young Iranian designers set out on a quest to showcase the richness of two cultures in a new way.

Courtesy of Mehr News Agency